Title: Need to improve the telecommunication services in rural areas, especially in Birbhum district, West Bengal. − Laid.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (BIRBHUM) : The progress of rural telecommunication service in general, especially in my district, Birbhum of West Bengal, is not at all satisfactory. The work of opening of new exchanges and laying of underground cable − has been stopped by the previous Government, thereby deprived the thousands of village consumers who have been waiting for years together.

The alternative mode of telecommunication in the rural area is WLL service, but that too is inadequate in number in respect of the existing demand. The quality of telecommunication services in the rural area is also very poor.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to take appropriate policy decision to expedite the telephone connections to the rural consumers as well as improvement of the services to the consumer satisfaction.